

B E F O R E

THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

IN THE

MATTER OF THE CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE
OF HOUSE BILL No. 2785.

ARGUMENT OF J. COLEMAN, OF COUNSEL,

SUBMITTED MARCH 20, 1884.

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ARGUMENT.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE:

At an informal meeting of your honorable committee, held on the 7th ultimo, it was determined that the committee had no power to investigate regarding the merits of the system under which the laws for the protection of the public health throughout the United States are to be enforced, or to determine from competent evidence whether or not a change from the present system would best subserve the public interest.

The status of this case, then, as I understand it, is this: The National Board of Health have presented to the committee a bill which they seek to have passed by the present Congress, which, if it become a law, will entirely do away with the present system of administration of the affairs of the public health, and place it under their management, and this radical change in existing law they seek to establish without knowledge on the part of those to whom they appeal as to the wisdom or necessity of the change. The National Board of Health was established by act of Congress on the 3d day of March, 1879. This act provided that the Board of Health should consist of seven members, to be appointed by the President, each from different States; that they should receive a compensation of \$10 per day and expenses when actually engaged in the performance of their duties; that secretaries of the several Departments and the Attorney-General were respectively required to detail one medical officer of the Army, one medical officer of the Navy, one medical officer of the Marine-Hospital Service, and one officer from the Department of Justice to aid in the discharge of the duties of the Board.

The Board were authorized to frame all such rules and regulations as might be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the act, and to make such examinations and investigations at places within the United States or at foreign ports as they might deem necessary to aid in the execution of the act. They were also authorized to obtain information from the executives of the several States and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia on all matters affecting the public health, whenever, in their opinion, such information would tend to the improvement thereof. They were required also by the act to report to Congress a full statement of its transactions.

June 2, 1879, the powers and duties of the Board were enlarged and extended, and by the act of that date they were given full control of all matters pertaining to the national health, including all matters connected with the quarantine service of the United States. This act further provided that it should not continue in force for a longer period than four years from the date of its approval. The last Congress refused longer to continue in force the law of 1879, and the Board were thus deprived of their powers, and the laws affecting this branch of the public service are now administered under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, as they were previous to the act creating the Board of Health.

The bill now submitted to your committee proposes to change the system of protecting the public health, and to confer upon the National Board of Health the powers, privileges, and duties that were conferred upon them by the act of June 2, 1879, and which, as I have said, were substantially taken from them by the refusal of Congress to continue the act in force after the expiration of the four years mentioned in the act.

It is very much to be regretted that the learned gentlemen composing the Board of Health, and who desire to have the powers and privileges that have been heretofore conferred upon them by Congress re-established by the passage of the bill now before your honorable committee, could not have relied upon the merits of the system advocated by them, and sought to be established by it, in the arguments made to convince the committee of the necessity of its passage. If the welfare of the public and the interests of the Government are to be best promoted by the re-establishment of this Board, it would seem that this fact could have been made to appear to your honorable committee by a statement to them of the merits of the proposed bill, and by explaining the reason why the system proposed to be re-established would best subserve the interests of the people, without traducing the present management or making statements before this committee, and causing them to be published in the public press, reflecting upon the character and standing of those engaged in administering the laws as they now stand upon the statute-books, and defaming both their official and private character before the country.

It is difficult to imagine why these gentlemen should have made this attack, and the only reason which can be found for such a course is in the communication submitted to the committee by Mr. Waring, the secretary of the National Board of Health.

The committee, have already had their attention called to the fact that at a meeting of this committee the several members of the Board

of Health appeared before them and, in the absence of the Secretary of the Treasury or the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Hospital Service, charged the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, who now has the control, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, of the management of the affairs of the public health, with having been "injudicious, unskilful, and unsuccessful in the discharge of his duties."

The justification for this malicious, unwarrantable, and libellous attack is given by Mr. Waring, the secretary of the Board, in the communication submitted by him, and which will be found on page 31 of the pamphlet submitted to the committee by the Board, entitled "Remarks before the Committee on Public Health of the House of Representatives, in support of House bill No. 2785, Forty-eighth Congress, first session, and in refutation of charges made against the Board by the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service." He there says:

"I owe the committee an apology and an explanation for my action in introducing a personal element into its deliberations after the Marine-Hospital Service had been brought into the discussion. I did this because I believed that Doctor Hamilton would abstain from appearing before you unless lashed into doing so by definite charges so publicly made that they could not be disregarded. * * * To this end only did I here accuse him of misrepresentation, and only to secure this end did I make the communication that I did to the associated press of the country."

This communication, stated by him to have been made to the associated press of the country, was the charge that Doctor Hamilton had been "injudicious, unskilful, and unsuccessful." The committee will permit me to state that this, to say the least, reckless accusation was made regarding a gentleman whose experience and skill and ability in the public service is well recognized.

Doctor Hamilton, the present Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, graduated in medicine with honor at Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., February 3, 1869. He practised medicine and surgery in that State until the fall of 1874, when he appeared before the medical examining board of the United States Army, was passed, and subsequently commissioned an assistant surgeon. He served at Saint Louis Barracks, and on the frontier at Fort Colville, in Washington Territory, where he resigned, and in September, 1876, he appeared before the medical examining board of the Marine-Hospital Service, and in a competitive examination, in a class of fifteen, he passed the highest examination, 87.05 out of a possible 100, the highest mark ever yet attained in that Service. He served as assistant surgeon at New York City, from November, 1876, until June, 1877, when he was ordered to take charge of the important post of Boston,

Mass., and was promoted to be a surgeon of the Marine-Hospital Service. He continued in command of the Chelsea Hospital until 1879, when he was ordered to Washington to take temporary charge of the Marine-Hospital Bureau, and, on the united recommendation of the medical corps of his Service, the President promoted him to be Supervising Surgeon-General.

Since his incumbency of the office, many reforms due to his energy and intimate knowledge of the Service have been successfully carried out. Among them, the examination of pilots for color-blindness, the establishment of new hospitals, the perfecting of the hospital regulations, which amounted to a thorough reorganization of the Service and its general advancement, until, as Colburn's (London) United Service has said, "it is the gem of the mercantile marine of the world," and, in the matter of the public health, the means of preventing the spread of epidemics have been simplified by Doctor Hamilton, until most places subject to epidemic visitations have practically adopted the methods brought into use in this country by him.

In his private capacity he has had honors scarcely less marked, having been elected by the faculty as lecturer in the medical department of the Columbian University, and subsequently elected to the chair of professor of surgery in the medical department of Georgetown University.

These gentlemen must have known at the time the charge I have referred to was made before your committee by them, and at the time they communicated it to the associated press and spread it broadcast throughout the country, that if the question of the passage of this bill was to depend upon the efficiency or inefficiency of the present management, upon the superior qualifications and ability of the Board of Health to discharge the duties pertaining to it, that such fact could not be made to appear to your committee by charges and counter-charges, by criminations and recriminations, by abusing men in the public press, by provoking a row and exhausting the time of the committee in talking about which was the better or which the poorer plan. They should have known, and undoubtedly did know, that these questions could only be made to appear to your committee by an investigation into the relative operations of the two systems, and that this could only be done by taking testimony, subpoenaing and examining witnesses, examining the books and papers connected with the Service—doing all those things which it would be necessary to do in order to give the committee a thorough and complete knowledge of the operation of the two systems, and this they knew the committee had no power to do. So that this statement, made by the secretary of the Board, with full knowledge

that the committee had no power to afford redress, was a cowardly and unjustifiable attack upon a skilful and efficient officer in the public service, and justifies everything that may have been said by that officer in reply thereto. But this matter I leave with the committee without further remark, other than saying that we regret the inability of the committee to investigate the charges made, and thereby remedy the wrong and injury which this Board may have been enabled, by being permitted to appear before you, to inflict maliciously and without justification.

We submit and urge that if this committee contemplate any radical change in the existing system, before making any recommendation to that effect, they obtain the necessary power from Congress, and make such an investigation as will enable them to act with full knowledge of the facts. A result thus obtained would be satisfactory to the present management, and to the country.

But with proper appreciation of the embarrassments of the committee and of their present inability to determine the questions submitted to them, it may be of benefit if I briefly call attention to the laws in force regarding the subject.

The present system of regulating and controlling the affairs of the public health of the nation has been reached only after long experience and after repeated and varied legislation. The first law passed by Congress which had for its purpose the placing of the control and management of the affairs of the public health in the hands of the public officers of the Government was passed on the 16th of July, 1798, and was entitled "An act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen." This act simply authorized the President to appoint, in such ports as he might think proper, persons to be called directors of the marine hospitals for their respective ports, and their duties under the act were defined to be mainly to provide for the accommodation of sick and disabled seamen at their respective ports, under such general instructions as should be given from time to time by the President of the United States for that purpose. (1 *Statutes at Large*, p. 605.)

February 25, 1799, Congress passed another act, entitled "An act respecting quarantine and health laws," which, in substance, placed the management of the public health and quarantine service under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury. (1 *Statutes at Large*, p. 619.)

These acts remained in force without material change until June 29, 1870, when Congress, which provided that the Secretary of the Treasury should from time to time appoint a surgeon to act as supervising surgeon of the Marine-Hospital Service, and also that this supervising sur-

geon should, *under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury*, supervise all matters connected with the Marine-Hospital Service, and the disbursement of the fund for the relief of sick and disabled seamen, and that he should make monthly reports to the Secretary of the Treasury. (*Revised Statutes*, sec. 4802.)

On the 3d of March, 1875, Congress amended this act and provided that the appointment of the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service should be made by the President of the United States. (*Supplement to Statutes*, p. 158, sec. 1.)

On the 29th of April, 1878, Congress passed another act, conferring upon the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, full power and authority to enforce the quarantine laws of the United States, but this act carried with it no appropriation. (*Supplement to Statutes*, p. 313, chap. 66.)

Thus, it will be seen that to this time, and down to the establishment of the National Board of Health by Congress on the 3d of March, 1879, the control of the quarantine service and the administration of the affairs of the public health, so far as they were directed and controlled by the Government, by law remained under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury.

At this time, March 3, 1879, the system of the management of the affairs of the public health of the United States was radically and entirely changed. As has been stated, Congress took the control of this branch of the administration of the Government out of the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury, and placed it under the control of the National Board of Health, this Board being created by act of Congress of March 3, 1879, and its full powers and duties being conferred upon them by that act and by the subsequent act of June 2, 1879. The debates in Congress show that application had been made to Congress from time to time for the establishment of various forms of a National Board of Health, and the placing control of the affairs of the public health under a Board or an association of gentlemen, who, acting in connection with and in co-operation with the various State boards of public health, and with the various local boards of health in the different States, were to have the entire management and control, under a system to be established by them, of the public health of the nation. These debates further show that the question of whether such radical change should be made or not was a matter of very serious consideration by Congress, and it was only after long debate, and after strenuous effort had been made to secure the passage of the bill, that Congress finally consented to take the control of the quarantine service out of its then present management, and they only did so, as the act shows, with the

understanding and under the express provision inserted in the law that it should be an experiment.

The act provides—

“SEC. 10. This act shall not continue in force for a longer period than four years from the date of its approval.”

The four years terminated June 1, 1883. Prior to this time, however, Congress, in obedience to public demand, had taken from the National Board of Health the control of the fund appropriated to aid in preventing the spread of disease; and in the sundry civil appropriation bill for the year 1882 it was provided that—

“The President of the United States is hereby authorized, in case of a threatened or actual epidemic, to use a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars in aid of State and local boards, in his discretion, in preventing and suppressing the spread of the same.” (*Statutes at Large*, vol. 22, p. 315.)

This provision was carried into the appropriation act for 1883, with an amendment, by adding the words “*and maintaining quarantine at points of danger.*” (*Statutes at Large*, vol. 22, p. 613.)

The other acts in force it is not important to call to the attention of the committee, as they do not affect the question under discussion, further than to give the committee a reference to the same.

April 18, 1879, *Statutes at Large*, vol. 21, p. 49.

June 14, 1879, *Statutes at Large*, vol. 21, p. 50.

June 16, 1880, *Statutes at Large*, vol. 22, p. 266.

The fact that Congress, yielding to the public demand, (see debates in Congress,) had seen fit to take the disposition of the moneys appropriated by them for the years 1882 and 1883 out of the hands of the National Board of Health and place it under the control of the President of the United States, and that he directed it to be used under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury is significant as showing the popular feeling regarding the management of this branch of the Service by the National Board of Health, and has undoubtedly been the cause of this attack upon the Secretary, and the reason for the introduction of the present bill.

Regarding this matter, however, if the President was to be guided by the intention of Congress, he had no other course to pursue.

(*Debates in Congress*, vol. 14, part 3, 2d session, 47th Congress, p. 3022.)

We submit there cannot be a particle of evidence adduced to show that Congress did not act wisely, and that the money appropriated by them has not been judiciously, economically, and properly expended.

If this be true, I submit that there is nothing connected with the wise and judicious administration of affairs of the Government that demands a continuance in power of this Board.

It must be admitted that the only practical necessity for such a board is, that their existence is essential to the proper disposition of the moneys annually appropriated by Congress to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases and in maintaining quarantine at points of danger. All this, we submit, can be better done, as has been shown, by and through the agency of the Marine-Hospital Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The fact that Congress *for the second time*, with full knowledge of the situation, took the disposition of this money from the Board of Health and placed it under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, is evidence of this fact, and that it has been wisely, economically, and properly disposed of by the Secretary cannot be successfully questioned. All parts of the country which have been afflicted by epidemic diseases have testified to the efficiency of this Service as conducted by Doctor Hamilton, and I beg here to call particular attention of the committee to the communications on this subject from the governor of Texas, on pages 11 and 12 of the pamphlet filed with your committee by Doctor Hamilton, being Treasury Department Document No. 550, and also to the communications referring to the same subject found on pages 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and pages 45 and 46, of the same pamphlet.

If, then, the quarantine service can be properly administered under its present management, where is the necessity for the continuation of the National Board of Health?

Every legislator of experience will admit that the fundamental principle of all legislation, the one underlying, controlling principle, is a prudent and wise economy in the administration of affairs. The management of the Board of Health has certainly not been economical. On the contrary, it has been extravagant and wasteful, and to such an extent that, if all the facts were known and published to the country, it would create such a scandal as would of itself demand from Congress the repeal of all laws keeping them in power. As some evidence proving this statement to be true, I submit to your committee an extract from the report of the Board of Health for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, as taken from a summary statement in their official report for the year ending June 30, 1883.

These items of expenditure to which I now call the attention of the committee are not necessary to the administration of this branch of the public service. That is to say, if the Board of Health should cease to exist to-day, the administering of all necessary affairs connected with the regulation or control of the public health would be carried on as well, without the expenditure of any of the moneys which are

contained in the list of expenditures as taken from their report. The report shows that there was expended by the Board—

For floating quarantine on the Mississippi river.....	\$40,238 11
Special scientific investigations	14,496 59
Pay and expenses of members, National Board of Health.....	12,736 27
Printing of bulletins of National Board of Health, blanks, &c.....	6,882 73
Pay of secretary, disbursing agent, clerks, messengers, &c.....	18,258 02
Rent, light, and fuel	1,009 28
Telegrams	1,678 34
Furniture, stationery, &c., for National Board of Health office.....	2,316 79
Miscellaneous expenses of the National Board of Health.....	4,577 83
Postage.....	702 26

These are some of the items of money expended by the National Board of Health for a single year, and, I claim, without any necessity for such expenditure. As evidence that some of these expenditures were not contemplated by the law creating the Board, and that they have been useless and extravagant, I wish to call attention to some vouchers—one presented by Dr. S. M. Bemiss, of New Orleans, a member of the Board, paid under the direction of the National Board of Health, on “travelling expenses” blank, as board:

NEW ORLEANS, *January 28, 1880.*

Dr. S. M. BEMISS,

To JOHN THUER, *Agent.*

Rent of house :	
1879. From July 10 to August 12, 34 days, at \$2.50.....	\$85 00
From August 25 to September 10, 17 days, at \$2.50.....	42 50
From September 16 to October 9, 24 days, at \$2.50.....	60 00
Total.....	167 50

JOHN THUER, *Agent.*

Dr. S. M. BEMISS,

To JULIA RANDOLPH.

1879. Board, July 10 to August 12, 34 days, at \$1.50.....	\$51 00
Board, August 25 to September 10, 17 days, at \$1.50.....	25 50
Board, September 16 to October 9, 24 days, at \$1.50.....	36 00
Total.....	112 50

Received payment in full, New Orleans, January 29, 1880.

her
JULIA X RANDOLPH.
mark.

Witnesses :

E. S. BEMISS.
B. BEMISS.

1879—Aug. 12. Board bill, July 10 to August 12, 34 days, at \$4.....	\$136 00
Sept. 10. Board bill, August 25 to September 10, 17 days, at \$4.....	68 00
Oct. 9. Board bill, September 16 to October 9, 24 days, at \$4.....	96 00
Total.....	300 00

Also, to—

Voucher No. 774:

E. W. Bowditch.—Services in making investigation and report upon the sanitary condition of summer resorts on the Atlantic coast.....\$1,000 00

Voucher No. 134:

G. H. O'Neal.—Services as president board of health of Pensacola, Fla.....\$75 00

Voucher No. 541:

Elliott Mason.—One 52-inch standard Columbia bicycle.....\$140 00

Vouchers Nos. 37, 372, 500, 579, 616, and 713:

Chas. Smart, (1882.)—Room-rent, No. 1313 N street, N. W.....\$16 each.

[1313 N street—City Directory gives this as Smart's residence.]

Congress provided by law for the payment of certain expenses of the National Board of Health. The act approved July 1, 1879, authorized them to expend \$800 a year in procuring suitable offices, and also provided for the payment to them, upon the requisition of the secretary of the Board, for all necessary printing to be done, not to exceed \$10,000 a year, and also authorized them to employ a clerk and a stenographer, and to rent houses or erect temporary quarantine buildings to aid in preventing the importation of contagious or infectious diseases.

And the act creating the Board of Health provides that each member shall receive the sum of \$10 per diem and reasonable expenses during the time when actually engaged in the performance of his duties; but I have been unable to find any law passed by Congress which authorizes the expenditure of the money for the purposes mentioned in the vouchers to which I have called attention, and I submit that these facts show that much of the money expended by the Board of Health has been unnecessarily expended, in a way calculated to bring the service into disrepute, and to justify the criticism, frequently made in the public press, that the people's money was being used by the Board for illegitimate and unlawful purposes.

But the fact that the management of this Board has been wasteful and extravagant is by no means the least of the objections to its continuance in office. The great and controlling objection to its existence lies in the fact that the system on which it is based is opposed to our form of government. The act creating the Board of Health, as has been seen, provides that it shall consist of seven members, each from different States of the Union, and so forth. The amendment to this act, or the act of June 2, 1879, gave them full power and control of the quarantine service, and conferred upon them powers and duties which authorized them to take and hold supreme control throughout all the States of the Union of all matters affecting the public health.

Section 1 of the bill in question is a re-enactment of a part of the law of 1879, which was only enacted to meet an emergency caused by the yellow-fever epidemic at Memphis, Tenn., in 1878, and goes further

in giving power to the National Board of Health than any acts heretofore passed by Congress. This section provides:

"And the National Board shall co-operate with, and, so far as it lawfully may, aid State and municipal boards of health in the execution and enforcement of the rules and regulations of such board, and of the rules and regulations of the National Board of Health, when the same shall have been approved by the President," &c.

And the bill further provides that they shall have control, under such regulation as they may make, of the sanitary condition of different ports or places in the United States; authorizes them to co-operate with State and municipal authorities, and public associations and private persons, for procuring information relating to the climatic and other conditions affecting the public health, &c.

In nearly all the States of the Union, as I understand, laws have been passed providing for the organization of State boards of health, and in most of the States there are organized county boards of health; and also, in many of the large cities, organized municipal boards of health.

It is undoubtedly intended by this bill, and by the National Board of Health, that they shall be the head of the different organizations of like character throughout the United States. The expenditure of the money given by Congress from time to time to enable them to carry out the provisions of the law can be made by them in such manner and in such way as they may from time to time determine. How they shall expend this money, to whom they shall pay it, or for what purpose, is a question left to their discretion. That there is now any State in the Union that needs aid from the Federal Government to enable them to protect its inhabitants from disease, or from the spread of infectious disease, is not claimed.

But, apart from these and from all economical considerations, I submit that it is not desirable to develop a system by which the different State and local boards of health shall act in conjunction, but, on the contrary, I claim that experience has shown that such a combination is not attended with practical beneficial results to the people. The passage of this bill, together with the laws now in force, will give to this Board a power greater than is possessed by any other branch of our Government. I concede that Congress can confer no power upon them by which they will be enabled to control, regulate, or interfere with the action of the States, or the citizens of the several States, against their will in the management of any of their internal affairs; but the great trouble to be apprehended will come from another and different source. With the money in their hands, annually appropriated by Congress, together with the power to disburse it in their dis-

cretion, the disposition will soon develop itself to control, through the different State agencies, the popular will on other matters than those directly connected with the public health, and the national and State legislation may, with the application of sufficient energy and ability, be reasonably expected to be influenced by them. A not altogether vague idea already seems to exist in the minds of some of the gentlemen composing this Board that it is proper to use their positions and influence for other purposes than in the interests of the health of the people. If an attempt, which happily failed, to induce the Speaker of the House of Representatives to appoint such gentlemen on the Committee of Public Health as would be friendly to the interests of this Board is within the legitimate line of the duties conferred by law upon them, it may be conceded that the Board would also have the right, operating through the different State, county, and local boards of health, to see to it that gentlemen friendly to their interests were nominated to Congress. Such a scheme would not by any means be impracticable. With the money given them by Congress, and the power to expend it in their own discretion, in many localities their friends could be nominated and elected to Congress, and through this source the appropriations and their powers be increased, which, in the hands of able, energetic, and bad men, the National Board of Health would come to be one of the most powerful of political agencies in the country. But I need not dwell further upon this point, as it will be evident to each gentleman composing this committee that the question of placing power to such an unlimited extent in the hands of men may lead to bad results.

There is one point, before closing, which I wish, however, to call to the attention of the committee. If it shall be determined by your honorable committee that the public service demands a change in existing laws so far as they may effect the regulation of the public health of the nation, more particularly that branch of it with which is connected the quarantine service; then I submit that the bill now pending before Congress, introduced by a member of this honorable committee by request, on the 3d instant, is ample and sufficient as providing for an economical and wise administration of the affairs of the public health. The committee will observe that this bill provides for the appointment of men now in the public service, so that, should it become a law, it can be enforced without any additional expense to the Government. Each of these gentlemen who, under this bill, would compose the board of health are officers already in the public service. As the committee well know, the law as it now stands prohibits any man or officer en-

gaged in the public service whose salary shall exceed \$2,500 per annum from drawing any pay for any other service rendered by him for the Government, so that the appointment of these gentlemen to compose the National Board of Health, and the management of the public health under their direction, would be economical, for the reason that it would not entail any additional expense upon the Government.

The committee will further see that if the board of health should be composed of the gentlemen named in this bill, that the positions they occupy are such as to prevent any effort towards the centralization of power in them.

I submit this bill to the consideration of the committee, believing that it provides ample and sufficient means for carrying into effect all the laws which may be passed by Congress regarding the regulation and control of the public health of the nation.

As to all questions of fact connected with this matter before the committee, the committee have determined they cannot take evidence; that they cannot pass upon or determine regarding them; so that, so far as the bill itself pending before the committee is concerned, as to whether or not it should become a law, there is in reality very little to be said. The experience of the past, as is shown by the action of the Board of Health, in contrast with the action under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury in controlling the quarantine service of the nation, has fully shown and proven that there is no necessity whatever for the continuance in power of the National Board of Health.

In conclusion, I submit that if your honorable committee should be of opinion that wise, prudent, and economical legislation demands the repeal of all laws creating this Board, and that hereafter the disposition of the moneys appropriated by Congress to prevent the spread of epidemic and contagious diseases, and to care for and regulate the affairs of the health of the nation, should be controlled and managed in a manner differing from the present system, then I submit that the bill introduced by the honorable member from Tennessee is in every respect adapted to a wise, economical, and judicious administration of this branch of the public service.

J. COLEMAN,
Of Counsel.

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.—H. R. 5603.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 3, 1884.—Read twice, referred to the Select Committee on the Public Health, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PETTIBONE introduced the following bill:

A BILL to protect the public health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Surgeon-General of the Army of the United States, the Surgeon-General of the United States Navy, and the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service shall hereafter constitute the United States Board of Health. Such Board shall have full power to make such regulations as may be necessary for the government of the quarantine service of the United States and the protection of the public health; and all the power and authority now provided by law for the control, management, and regulation of the public health of the United States shall be, and the same are hereby, vested in said United States Board of Health.

SEC. 2. That all consular officers in the service of the United States shall hereafter, at such times and under such regulations as the Secretary of State may from time to time provide, make report to the Secretary of State of all matters affecting the public health, which said report shall, when received, be transmitted to the said United States Board of Health.

SEC. 3. That such sanitary investigations as may from time to time be necessary shall be conducted under the direction of the said Surgeon-General of the Navy, at the Museum of Hygiene of the Navy Department, and full report thereof be made to the said United States Board of Health.

SEC. 4. That the United States quarantine service shall hereafter be conducted and managed by the said Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, acting under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 5. That the said United States Board of Health shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury annually a statement of all the transactions of said Board for the preceding year, together with a full and detailed account of all moneys expended by them, who shall report the same to Congress.

SEC. 6. That chapter two hundred and two, volume twenty, of the United States Statutes at Large, approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, and chapter sixty, volume twenty-one, of the United States Statutes at Large, approved July first, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.